

Does God Dwell in Light?

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God dwells in light
1Timothy 6:16

God dwells in darkness
1Kings 8:12; Psalms 18:11; 97:2

The scriptural references above have been used to claim that God contradicts Himself. In reality, they are proof that many people do not understand the nature of God or the figurative language that He uses. As this study will reveal, the one who dwells in light refers to Almighty God, while the spirit-being who is sometimes referred to as "God", and is symbolically associated with dark clouds, is actually Jesus Christ,

Then Solomon spoke: 'The Lord said he would dwell in the dark cloud. I have surely built you an exalted house, and a place for you to dwell in forever' (1Ki. 8:12; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

Dark clouds are used symbolically to represent judgment, and the spirit-being who was given the responsibility to judge the nation of Egypt (cf. Ex. 12:12; 33:4) and lead the Israelites out, was the one who later became known as Jesus Christ,

Moreover, brethren, I (Paul) do not want you to be unaware that **all our fathers were under the cloud**, all passed through the sea, ²all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For **they drank of that spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ** (1Cor. 10:1-4; cf. Ex. 17:6; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

And the Angel of God (who would later become known as Jesus Christ), who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and (therefore) the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. ²⁰So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus **it was a cloud and darkness to the one** (Egypt, which was under judgment), and it gave light by night to the other (Israel), so that the one did not come near the other all that night (Ex. 14:19-20; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

It is also Jesus Christ who will be given responsibility in the future to judge the fallen host and mankind for all their sins. This period of judgment is associated with darkness,

And the angels who did not keep their proper (original) domain (which was spiritual), but left their own habitation (due to their sin), **He has reserved** in everlasting chains **under darkness for the judgment of the great day** (Jude 1:6; cf. Rev. 20:11-15; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

In most cases when the terms darkness, gloominess, or dark clouds are being used in scripture, they represent judgment for sinful behavior,

Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord is coming, for it is at hand: **²A day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness** ... (Joel 2:1-2a; emphasis added).

It is important to note that Egypt was not the only nation being judged for their conduct during the time of Moses. The nation of Israel was also under judgment for their behavior, just as the body of Christ is under judgment today,

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? (1Pet. 4:17).

The Lord that Solomon referred to appeared in a dark cloud because this dark cloud was symbolic and meant to remind the nation of Israel that their conduct was being judged in relation to the law and commandments of Almighty God,

Therefore, as the holy spirit says: 'Today, if you will hear His voice, ⁸do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial (testing) in the wilderness, ⁹where your fathers tested Me, proved Me, and saw My works forty years. ¹⁰Therefore **I as angry with that generation**, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart...' (Heb. 3:7-10a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Just as sin separates individuals from God's truth or light, so too do dark clouds separate the earth from the light that remains above them. Darkness and dark clouds are also symbolically associated with God's anger when His people refuse to obey His law and commandments. This does not mean that either Almighty God or Jesus Christ dwell in darkness. In fact, they could not dwell in darkness because darkness is also symbolically associated with Satan's way of living, which is followed by the majority of mankind (cf. Rev. 12:9). Jesus Christ encounters Satan's domain when he judges it, and only in that sense is he exposed to darkness,

Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, **because He was angry**. ⁸smoke went up from His nostrils, and devouring fire from His mouth; coals were kindled by it. ⁹He bowed the heavens also, and **came down with darkness under His feet**. ¹⁰And he rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind. ¹¹**He made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him was dark waters and thick clouds of the skies** (Ps. 18:7-11; emphasis added).

For you (repentant sinners) were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the spirit is all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. ¹¹And **have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness**, but rather expose them (Eph. 5:8-11; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Once all sin and evil are dealt with, the subject of darkness, or dark clouds, will never be heard again because all of redeemed creation will be able to dwell with Almighty God and His son, Jesus Christ. Until this occurs, darkness will remain,

And the city (New Jerusalem) had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine, for the glory of God illuminated it, and the Lamb (Jesus Christ) is its light. ²⁴And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. ²⁵Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (and) there shall be no night there (Rev. 21:23-25; Ed. notes in parentheses).

In conclusion, Almighty God dwells in unapproachable light (for a physical human being), and Jesus Christ dwells with Him (cf. 1Tim. 6:16; Mt. 22:41-44; 26:64; Ac. 7:55-56). The figurative terms related to dark clouds, darkness, or gloominess, symbolize the consequences of transgressing God's law and commandments, which Christ confronts in order to judge the sinful deeds associated with them (cf. Ac. 10:42-43).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor. 11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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